

**Virginia Latino Advisory Board
Draft Minutes
Friday, June 11, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Piedmont Housing Authority
111 Monticello Avenue, Suite 104
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902**

Action Items

Kris will send the 2009 Report to the Governor and the updated biographies to Duane.
Duane will send biography to Kris.
Send email regarding next meeting: Friday or Saturday, July 9 or 10, 30 or 31, at VHCC.
Send email to all Board members regarding interest in continuing on VLAB.
Remove all Ex-Officio members and retiring members from email list.
Update VLAB webpage.
Beatriz will send 2008 Report to Governor and JLARC Report to Duane for webpage.

Members Present: Víctor Gómez, Kris Tilley-Lubbs, Charlotte Fritts, Mario Alfaro, Beatriz Amberman, Yolanda Puyana, Michel Zajur, Eddie Reyes, Omar Rashid, Gaby Rengifo

Guest: Duane Stafford, Statewide Credentialing Coordinator, Office of Commonwealth Preparedness

Meeting called to order at 1:20 p.m.

Introduction of VLAB members, who expressed a desire to establish a relationship with the new administration.

Duane Stafford: Manages an interoperable standards-based credentialing (identification) program for emergency responders throughout Virginia. Live in Paraguay for 2 years. Advocate for Latinos. Desire to meet expectations of VLAB. Will serve as Latino liaison.

Requests from VLAB members:

- Lapel pins from the Governor
- Visit from Governor
- Reception during Latino/Hispanic Heritage Month
- Ex-officio members from Governor's Cabinet
- Invitation to First Lady, Maureen McDonnell, to visit and meet with us. Advocate who lived in Mexico for two years.

Governor's concerns: Economy, jobs, outreach opportunities. Seeks guidance on growing jobs. Looks to VLAB for assistance in doing so in Latino community. Seeks members for additional boards.

Michel suggested that VLAB's focus for this year be economic development and job training.

Eddie reported that in Alexandria the economy shows signs of improving. Larger classes of graduating police and firefighters.

Other concerns expressed:

- Undocumented immigration and misinformation regarding immigration;
- Misconceptions: not all Hispanics are uneducated and/or undocumented;
- Attempt to achieve working visas for Spanish-speaking immigrants;
- Joint Legislative and Review Commission needs to conduct study regarding how immigrants have acclimated to the US.

The questions:

- How can VLAB help the Governor to advance the economy?
- How can the demographic breakdown of the labor shortage be located?

Goldman Sachs did a financially-based study.

UVA conducted study of financial contributions by Hispanics to Commonwealth.

- How would this information be used to help the Governor?
 - Use report to inform businesses in Commonwealth.
 - Review the study and make recommendations.

VLAB can serve to support Governor's agenda to generate positive propaganda.

Duane: What can be done to attract Hispanic businesses?

- Provide a welcoming atmosphere.
- Conduct a campaign to market Virginia to Latino businesses.
- Establish parity between population and agencies in the public sector. 14% Hispanics in Alexandria, so 14% of police department should be Hispanic.

NC has intentional program for recruiting businesses. One person speaks Spanish.

Presentation from Laura Southard and Karla Ramos, VA Dept. of Emergency Management

Emphasis on:

- Preparedness
- Response--not first responders
- Recovery
- Mitigation

Report directly to Secretary of Public Safety and the Governor

Ready Virginia: grew from federal program, Ready, after 9/11; Listo Virginia—Spanish counterpart.

www.ListoVirginia.gov, 1-866-782-3470

Provide statewide public education about preparedness.

Preparedness is everyone's responsibility. Everyone should be prepared to take care of selves for 72 hours. Everyone should

- Get a kit.

- Make a plan
- Stay informed

71% do not have these essential supplies:

- 3-day supply non-perishable food, water
- 3-day supply of water--gallon/person/day
- Working battery operated radio
- Household communications plan

56% of Hispanics don't feel prepared.

Research findings:

Hispanic population:

- Frederick Co. fastest growing county in US
- 6% of VA population; 7% all K-12 children in VA

2009-10 Outreach

- Media campaign
- New printed materials
- Community events
- Special assistance
 - Working with local emergency managers
 - Identifying communities with high percentage of Hispanic population
 - Focus on language and cultural components.

Brochures and printed information available. Will mail them for free.

Next meeting at Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, sponsored by Michel. Omar suggests Saturday instead of Friday because of his schedule.

Adjournment. Beatriz made the move to adjourn. Peter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Tilley-Lubbs